

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Amendment

In the Claims

1. (previously presented) A method for inducing an immune response against transformed, infected or diseased tissue in a patient comprising:  
  
selectively removing soluble cytokine receptor molecules from blood, plasma, or one or more components of the blood of the patient until the transformed, infected, or diseased tissue is reduced in size or is inflamed or other positive indication is observed.
2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the tissue is a solid tumor.
3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the components are removed from one blood volume.
4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the components are removed in multiple treatments.
5. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising treating the tissue with an agent selected from the group consisting of anti-angiogenic compounds, procoagulant compounds, cytokines, chemotherapeutic agents, and radiation.
6. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the agent is a cytokine and the cytokine is selected from the group consisting of GM-CSF, erythropoietin, thrombopoietin, G-CSF, M-CSF and SCF.

Claim 7 cancelled.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the soluble cytokine receptor molecules are selected from the group consisting of soluble tissue necrosis factor receptor-1 ("sTNFR-1"), soluble tissue necrosis factor receptor-2 ("sTNFR-2"), soluble

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interleukin-2 receptor ("sIL-2R"), soluble interleukin-1 receptor ("sIL-1R"), soluble interleukin-6 receptor ("sIL-6R"), and soluble interferon-gamma receptor ("sIFN-gammaR").

9. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein the cytokine receptor molecules are removed by binding to the cytokine or to an antibody or antibody fragment immunoreactive with the cytokine receptor molecules.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the cytokine or antibody or antibody fragments are immobilized in a filter or column through which the patient's blood or plasma is circulated prior to being returned to the patient.

Claim 11-20 (cancelled).